

FLD 8900

COUNTRY		East Germany	SECURITY INFORMATION	REPORT NO
TOPIC		Military Information from Wittenberg		
25X1	EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
25X1	DATE OF CONTENT			
25X1	DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	20 July 1953
REFERENCES				
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS				25X1
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1. Prior to 3 July 1953, the Taentzien Kaserne in Wittenberg was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia. Vehicles observed included T-43 tanks armored scout cars 10 half-track vehicles, including motor vehicles

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2. Prior to 3 July, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets. Vehicles observed included: T-43 tanks were observed. Two ISU-122 and 35 tank trucks were seen on the Arado grounds.

3. The Apollensdorf installation was occupied by 250 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal and motor transport insignia. Individual training was observed. Vehicles were seen with an engineer exercise.

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4. At 3 p.m. on 17 June, martial law was declared in Wittenberg. Tanks and foot troops were employed. Public buildings were protected by tanks. Vehicles observed included: JS-3 tanks armored scout car and 10 half-track vehicles, including Tanks were dispatched toward Coswig for employment.

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6. At 4 p.m. on 9 July, the following vehicles were entrained at the Wittenberg freight station and left toward Jueterbog: T-34 tanks [redacted]

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- B-3 7. At 6:30 a.m. on 7 July, an engineer unit coming by road from the direction of Dessau was observed passing through Wittenberg. The column drove via Fratau and Dabrun southeastward to the Elbe River. The unit included about 30 trucks

[redacted] loaded with pontoons; 3 trucks [redacted] towing motor boats [redacted] 6 trucks [redacted] with a hoisting gear each; and 3 trucks [redacted] with troops. At 9:30 a.m., a field exercise was beginning. Trucks were parked at a five meter distance from the river and, after laying a smoke screen, soldiers unloaded the pontoons. Afterwards, a 2-way bridge was constructed and completed at about 11:30 a.m. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. The troops belong to the 3rd Gds Mtrcl Bn of the 6th Gds Tank Div which arrived at its home station in Wittenberg from Camp Gross Kuehnau near Dessau on 25 June 1953. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. The large units observed at their barracks installations belong to the 51st Gds Tank Regt, 52nd Gds Tank Regt, and 78th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 6th Gds Tank Div which returned from the Werder-Markendorf troop training grounds on and after 18 June 1953. [redacted] The tank battalion which, according to the present report, again was dispatched to Jueterbog, belongs to the 52nd Gds Tank Regt.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The vehicle [redacted] confirm the 35th Engr Regt (US) of the Third Gds Mecz Army which, [redacted] came from its quarters in Apollendorf and constructed a bridge southeast of Wittenberg [redacted]

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The report mentions the construction under a smoke screen and within a period of two hours, but does not indicate whether the bridge was constructed across the Elbe River proper or a dead arm of the river only.

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